USDA FOREST SERVICE

Research Note NC-195

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION, FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

1975

FOREST AREA IN IOWA COUNTIES, 1974

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ABSTRACT.--Four percent of the land area in Iowa is forested. Commercial forest land totaled 1,458,700 acres in 1974.

OXFORD: 524.61:64(777). KEY WORDS: commercial forest land, noncommercial forest land.

The 1974 forest survey of Iowa's woodlands shows that commercial forests (land suitable for growing industrial timber products and not reserved from this use) now occupy 1,458,700 acres, about 4 percent of the State's total land area (table 1).

Although area statistics from this survey cannot be compared directly with those of the last survey because of changes in definitions and survey techniques, it is apparent that Iowa's commercial forest land base has declined. Since the previous survey in 1954, commercial forest declined 1,136,000 acres or 44 percent. This is too large of a loss to be solely the result of definitional and technical differences between surveys.

Most of the commercial forest land occurs in the eastern part of the State in counties that border the Mississippi River and a two-county-wide band along the eastern one half of the Iowa-Missouri border (fig. 1). Allamakee County, located in the northeastern corner of the State, contains 100,300 acres of commercial forest land--more than any other county in the State.

Noncommercial forest land in Iowa amounted to 102,600 acres in 1974. Of this amount, 75,900 acres are productive but reserved for uses other than timber production such as parks and wildlife refuges. The remaining 26,700 acres are forest land too poor to grow timber products suitable for industrial use.

The sampling error of area for this survey was $\pm$ 2.71 percent for the 1,458,700 acres of commercial forest land. The survey was conducted by the North Central Forest Experiment Station and the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Table 1.--*Area of land and forest land, by counties, Iowa, 1974*

Survey unit and county	All land[1]	All forest	Forest land[2]		Commercial forest as a percent of land area
			Commercial[3]	Non-commercial[4]	
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent
Northeastern					
Allamakee	406.8	101.8	100.3	1.5	25
Benton	459.3	15.3	14.7	.6	3
Black Hawk	363.5	12.9	9.8	3.1	3
Bremer	281.0	12.6	12.2	.4	4
Buchanan	363.6	11.2	10.3	.9	3
Butler	372.5	9.3	8.8	.5	3
Cedar	374.4	15.6	15.2	.4	4
Chickasaw	323.4	8.1	7.8	.3	2
Clayton	498.8	84.4	82.1	2.3	16
Clinton	443.8	24.0	23.6	.4	5
Delaware	365.8	19.4	17.1	2.3	5
Dubuque	391.8	38.2	36.7	1.5	9
Fayette	465.9	28.0	27.2	.8	6
Floyd	321.9	7.7	7.3	.4	2
Grundy	320.6	.7	.6	.1	--
Howard	301.4	6.5	6.2	.3	2
Jackson	412.0	57.6	56.3	1.3	14
Johnson	396.4	25.2	19.1	6.1	5
Jones	374.4	28.3	27.4	.9	7
Linn	458.8	32.3	28.3	4.0	6
Mitchell	298.8	5.0	4.8	.2	2
Scott	290.3	10.8	10.4	.4	4
Tama	460.8	19.8	19.2	.6	4
Winneshiek	440.3	39.8	39.1	.7	9
Total	9,186.3	614.5	584.5	30.0	6
Southeastern					
Appanoose	334.7	30.5	25.2	5.3	8
Boone	366.7	22.4	18.0	4.4	5
Clarke	274.5	22.5	22.2	.3	8
Dallas	382.0	19.2	17.4	1.8	5
Davis	325.9	26.8	25.9	.9	8
Decatur	339.2	29.2	28.0	1.2	8
Des Moines	261.2	26.0	25.0	1.0	10
Guthrie	381.4	25.5	24.4	1.1	6
Hamilton	369.5	6.2	6.0	.2	2
Hardin	367.2	9.5	8.9	.6	2
Henry	281.6	23.0	21.9	1.1	8
Iowa	373.6	18.2	18.0	.2	5
Jasper	470.0	12.0	11.3	.7	2
Jefferson	279.0	17.8	17.6	.2	6
Keokuk	370.5	16.0	15.8	.2	4
Lee	337.5	50.7	50.0	.7	15
Louisa	258.0	22.2	22.2	--	9
Lucas	277.6	31.7	29.4	2.3	11
Madison	361.0	26.0	25.4	.6	7
Mahaska	366.0	15.5	15.1	.4	4
Marion	362.9	26.7	17.4	9.3	5
Marshall	367.4	8.5	7.9	.6	2
Monroe	278.4	34.4	34.1	.3	12
Muscatine	283.2	19.2	18.7	.5	7
Polk	380.0	17.3	10.1	7.2	3
Poweshiek	377.0	7.6	7.3	.3	2
Story	363.5	5.5	5.2	.3	1
Van Buren	311.6	38.2	36.0	2.2	12
Wapello	279.4	23.3	23.0	.3	8
Warren	365.8	24.2	22.7	1.5	6
Washington	363.5	18.7	17.2	1.5	5
Wayne	340.3	15.9	14.8	1.1	4
Webster	459.5	17.9	17.3	.6	4
Total	11,309.6	708.3	659.4	48.9	6

(Table 1 cont. on next page)

(Table 1 cont.)

Survey unit and county	All land[1]	All forest	Forest land[2]		Commercial forest as a percent of land area
			Commercial[3]	Non-commercial[4]	
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent
Western					
Adair	364.2	6.2	5.7	.5	2
Adams	272.6	7.6	7.1	.5	3
Audubon	286.7	1.3	1.1	.2	--
Buena Vista	366.3	2.4	2.1	.3	1
Calhoun	365.6	.6	0.5	.1	--
Carroll	367.3	1.0	.5	.5	--
Cass	357.8	2.7	2.5	.2	1
Cerro Gordo	368.1	.9	.6	.3	--
Cherokee	366.7	4.7	4.0	.7	1
Clay	364.9	3.9	3.4	.5	1
Crawford	458.2	4.6	4.2	.4	1
Dickinson	242.9	.6	.4	.2	--
Emmet	252.3	2.7	2.0	.7	1
Franklin	375.0	3.3	2.7	.6	1
Fremont	335.2	14.0	12.4	1.6	4
Greene	364.1	6.4	5.8	.6	2
Hancock	364.9	.9	.5	.4	--
Harrison	445.3	30.5	28.2	2.3	6
Humboldt	278.4	2.5	2.2	.3	1
Ida	275.8	.5	.3	.2	--
Kossuth	626.6	2.5	2.3	.2	--
Lyon	376.3	1.7	1.6	.1	--
Mills	285.8	12.7	11.9	.8	4
Monona	447.5	25.1	22.5	2.6	5
Montgomery	270.1	4.7	4.2	.5	2
O'Brien	367.9	1.3	1.1	.2	--
Osceola	254.6	.1	.1	--	--
Page	342.4	7.3	6.9	.4	2
Palo Alto	358.7	1.5	1.4	.1	--
Plymouth	552.3	5.2	4.8	.4	1
Pocahontas	371.6	.8	.8	--	--
Pottawattamie	616.4	13.9	12.9	1.0	2
Ringgold	344.1	15.2	14.1	1.1	4
Sac	370.0	1.7	1.4	.3	--
Shelby	375.7	1.8	1.6	.2	--
Sioux	490.3	1.0	.7	.3	--
Taylor	337.7	10.3	9.5	.8	3
Union	272.0	15.4	14.5	.9	5
Winnebago	256.7	.3	.2	.1	--
Woodbury	557.6	14.5	12.6	1.9	2
Worth	256.1	1.6	1.1	.5	--
Wright	369.0	2.6	2.4	.2	1
Total	15,371.7	238.5	214.8	23.7	1
STATE TOTAL	35,867.6	1,561.3	1,458.7	102.6	4

[1]1970 Bureau of the Census estimates.

[2]Land at least 16.7 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or formerly having such tree cover; excludes lands currently developed for nonforest use such as urban or heavily settled residential or resort area, city parks, orchards, improved roads, or improved pasture lands. The minimum forest area classified was 1 acre. Roadside, streamside and shelterbelt strips of timber with crown width of at least 120 feet and unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forested areas if less than 120 feet in width were classified as forest.

[3]Forest land producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood and not withdrawn from timber utilization by statute or administrative regulation.

[4]Unproductive forest land incapable of yielding crops of industrial wood because of adverse site conditions, and productive public forest land withdrawn from commercial timber production through statute or administrative regulation.

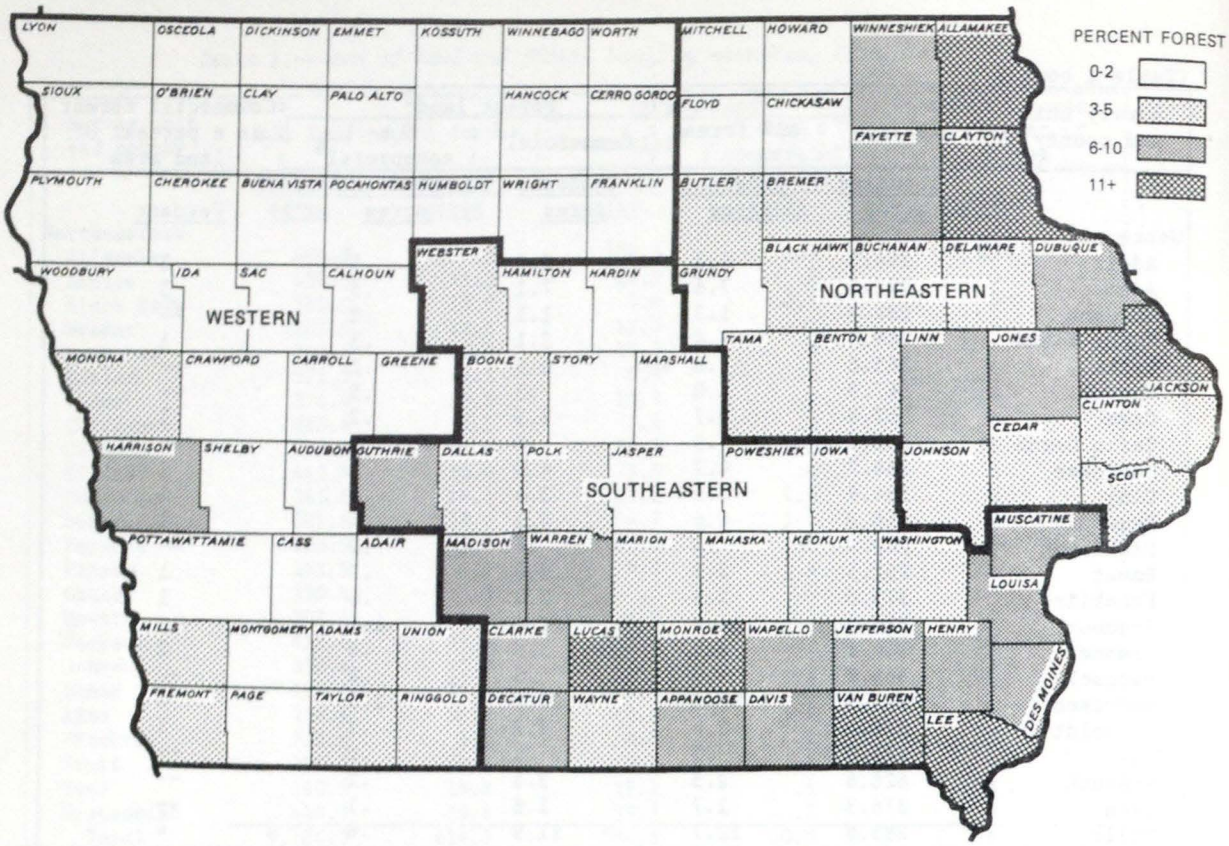

Figure 1.--*Commercial forest area as a percent of land area, by county, Iowa, 1974*